



The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

March 31, 2009

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt,

Under your leadership Congress has worked to provide equitable graduate medical education funding for independent children's teaching hospitals through the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program (CHGME.) We urge you to continue supporting this program by providing full authorized funding--\$330 million-- for CHGME in Fiscal Year 2010.

In 2006, Congress reauthorized CHGME with overwhelming bipartisan support. The program is funded at \$301.6 million in the FY09 continuing resolution and received \$310 in the FY09 Omnibus. An increase to \$330 million for FY10 will provide these hospitals with GME support that is equitable to what other hospitals receive through Medicare.

Undoubtedly, CHGME has been a huge success, correcting an unintended inequity in the GME financing system which had come to depend on Medicare, leaving out children's hospitals. CHGME now provides independent children's teaching hospitals with 80 percent of the federal GME support received by other hospitals through Medicaid.

CHGME is a sound investment in the healthcare of all our children and we thank you for the Subcommittee's past support and urge full funding in FY10.

Gratefully,

Anna G. Eshoo

Mary Bono Mack

Edward J. Markey

Edw L. Engel

Gene Kren

Mike Rann

Geoff Rankin

Jane DeHette

Charlie Weber

Steve Lind

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Don O. Wapner

Rice Roberts

Jim Muller

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Bob D'Amico

Kay Granger

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John M. Brown

Thomas Price

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Mike Tuzan

Joe Courtney

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~~Steve Chabot~~
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~~Jeff Gannon~~

Bob Filner

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Tim Murphy

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Janet Lee

Steve Kagen, M.D.

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Barney Frank

Chad E. Urdan